

SNC Reference Number (enter if previously assigned)
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N/A

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Mariposa
Applicant: Yosemite Institute
Project Title: WildLink

PROJECT GOAL

WildLink gives underserved youth a transformative experience through a series of fully scholarshiped wilderness and community-based education programs in and near the Sierra Nevada, providing the knowledge, inspiration and empowerment needed to develop long-term community leaders and environmental stewards of our watersheds and public lands.

PROJECT SCOPE

Proposed Work: This proposal is being presented to the SNC by the Yosemite Institute, with the cooperation of the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, the Sequoia Natural History Association, and our numerous local partners. The funds requested in this grant will be used to support staff and scholarship costs of established and new WildLink program initiatives, including:

1. Strengthen and continue existing WildLink programs, including Wilderness expeditions in Yosemite National Park; Family Orientation meetings; Family Weekends; career and internship programs ; and educational efforts leading up to, but not including, Wilderness Ambassador Stewardship programs (the funds requested in this Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant will not be used to carry out actual restoration projects).
2. Continue to develop and refine the staff and logistical structure that will enable us to provide seamless and consistent WildLink programming in our Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park expansion and beyond
3. Add a series of innovations to the WildLink program that will greatly increase our positive impact on youth, including:
 - Increasing the level of inquiry-based learning in our Wilderness Ambassador program through the infusion of new curriculum and methods
 - Updating our WildLink website to include more current information about the program and more engaging, interactive wilderness education components
 - Adding a new web-based education component of student-produced educational videos to better bridge the gap between underserved audiences and the wilderness experience

Anticipated Results: In addition to the numerous ways that our participants and their communities will benefit, this grant will also provide the following benefits to the Sierra Nevada: 1) Regional economic benefit as more of the whole of our population engages with our public lands as recreational users, employees and stewards. 2) By recognizing and catering to the special needs of culturally underrepresented user groups, we will enhance use and enjoyment of public lands, and engage people vital to the long term health and survival of our watersheds and wild places. 3) The preservation and dissemination of vital Sierra Nevada "Hidden Histories" such as the story of the Buffalo Soldiers' early role here as stewards and protectors. 4) Preservation of the culture and skills of traditional travel and tool use through partnerships with the Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Estimated Cost: Total project cost is \$244,700. Over \$51,100 has been donated through in-kind services by the Yosemite Institute, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service and other partners. \$84,500 has been committed from a wide range of funders including individual donors, federal grants and philanthropic foundations. More than \$66,000 is pending in grant proposals that have been or will be submitted for this fiscal year to already identified and cultivated potential funders. The total grant being requested from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is \$87,000.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Yosemite National Park; Yosemite Leadership Program; Environmental Studies Academy; Turlock High School; USDA Region 5 Forest Service; Sequoia Natural History Association; Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Stanislaus Forest Service; Madera High School; Backcountry Horsemen of California

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Launch of new WildLink logo and interactive website.	TBA between 9/2008-11/2008
Wilderness Ambassador Projects & Family Orientation Meetings--estimated minimum of 14 each	Ongoing 9/08-7/09
4 five-day wilderness expeditions in the Sierra Nevada (Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks)	9/08-11/08
5 five-day wilderness expeditions in the Sierra Nevada (Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks)	3/09-6/09
WildLink students participate in YouthQuest Environmental Youth Conference at Headlands Institute	Spring 2009 TBA
WildLink Teacher Development Retreat and WildLink Family Weekend	TBA between 3/09-6/09
WildLink/National Park Service Bridge Program	TBA 2 weeks in 6/08

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
WildLink Program Director Salary	\$22,400
WildLink Program Coordinator Salary	\$11,400
WildLink Community Coordinator Salary	\$12,000
Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition Coordinator	\$ 2,000
Backpacking Expedition Costs(equipment, buses, co-instructor pay)	\$10,700
Family Orientation Meetings Costs (staff travel costs)	\$ 2,000
Wilderness Ambassador Program Costs(equipment & staff travel)	\$4,000
Teacher Development Program Costs (travel costs)	\$1,000
Family Weekend Costs (bus for participants & pay for site host	\$ 800
Website Outreach and Education Costs (website restructure—including video component---and brochure development)	\$ 9,700
WildLink Bridge Program Costs (staff, housing, educational materials, stipend and transportation costs)	\$11,000
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$87,000